

Delaware Independent Living Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: March 13, 2018

Location: BlindSight Delaware

Members Present: Wayne Marsh (chair), Melodye May, Patti Addison, Suzanne Howell, August Hazeur, Katherine Bottner, Blake Roberts, Ken Roth, Carol King-Ries

Members Absent: William Bartlett, Carol Miller, Lynn Schneider

Others Present: Elisha Jenkins, Melodye May, Jill Morrison, Nicole Charnow, Pat Carzo, Samantha Sevilla, Terri Marsh, Mary Marsh

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Marsh.

Director's Report

BEP - Elisha stated that on February 22, 2018, the BEP, Blind Vendors Committee (BVC) held their monthly meeting. At that meeting, was Laura Saperstein of the Division of Public Health (DPH), Program

Administrator for Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity Prevention (PANO) Program, discussed meeting with a representative from the American Heart Association regarding the DPH and DVI healthy vending initiative. They are setting dates for taste tests of potential new healthy vending products at the BEP vendor's site locations and presenting these items at the BEP Operator's quarterly training session scheduled to be held on June 21st thru June 22nd of this year. Other topics of discussion were the BEP audit, the re-opening of the Smyrna Rest Stop later this year, the DTCC cafeteria and catering contract, the program's Strategic Planning progress, accessible formatting of electronic communiques, advertising strategies for all programs, and a discussion on the future of the food trucks program for the Holloway Campus.

BEP and the Div. of Public Health, in a joint venture with the American Health Association, which have been very vocal, will meet to discuss healthy vending. They want 100% healthy foods in all vending machines.

Elisha also stated that, the Joint Finance Committee wanted to know if the Assistive Technology team was certified and the answer was "NO". The Joint Finance Committee has awarded \$216,000.00 dollars for

certification for teachers and that the eligibility criteria is very stringent in the state of Delaware.

In August 2017, a Strategic Plan was implemented. The Agency (DVI) continues to achieve smart goals and performance measures in each unit.

VR- New Partnerships:

In her report, Mrs. Jenkins stated that there are new partnerships that have been developed during the timeline of August 2017 until present with: Insta Sign; Davis, Bowen, Friedel Inc.; Dover Federal Credit Union; IG Burton; County Bank; and LaRed Health Center.

DVI is engaged in the Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment process. There have been focus groups held and electronic surveys are being sent out. If you have not received the survey, please contact Deborah Bradl and it will be e-mailed to you to complete and return.

One of the requirements of the VR Program is the development and implementation of a State Plan. The State Plan is a roadmap of performance measures under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. A draft will be available for the public for comments.

Consumers Success Stories

- (1) Three consumers are participating in the Partners in Public Policy class from the Division for the Visually Impaired.
- (2) Another of our transition student completed their application for the STEM program at NFB (National Federation for the Blind) in Baltimore.
- (3) One of our senior transition students has been accepted to the Culinary Institute of America, Johnson and Wales, and Walnut Hill College.

In February of 2108, DVI sponsored a “Family Night Information Session” to share information regarding the services offered through the Division for the Visually Impaired, with a focus on students ages 6-24. The members of the Division’s Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services Unit, the Education Unit, the Technology Center, the Independent Living Services Unit, and the Material Center/Volunteer

Services Unit all participated. One of the Vocational Rehabilitation Counsels was present.

There are currently, two breakout sessions being developed by DVI staff to present to the Delaware Pathways Conference scheduled for March 21st, 2018 in partnership with the Department of Labor.

1. ***A Shared Vision for Youth with Barriers***- which explores a conceptual framework for effective partnering, highlights best practices and will showcase the self-determination model of instruction to be rolled out in the school year 2018-2019.

2. The second breakout session; ***“Empowering the Student Voice”***, will help to raise awareness and increase accessibility of career pathways for youth with barriers. Two students will be directly involved in the delivery of the breakout sessions.

Instructional Resource and Material Center:

There was a training in February for staff members on SWIFT/DBT and Windows/Microsoft Word. The training was geared to teach attendees how to perform the majority of their work in Microsoft Word. They

were taught how to use Word to create accessible documents that causes less difficulty in translating the document into another format such as Braille or PDF. It only took two days for one of the certified brailist to adopt the new practices and on the third day the person produced a 300 page document in Braille using this new method and procedures.

Communication and Outreach:

There was a Vision Summit held at Nemours on February 16, 2018 that DVI participated in. At this Summit DVI staff members had a chance to network with other vision related peers and listen to the keynote speaker, Dr. Sharon Lehman, Chief of Pediatric Ophthalmology at A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children. That concluded Elisha's report.

Melody May then took over with staff updates. There are new hires, a new VR Counselor will start on Monday, March 19, 2018, Lisa Edmondson, Admin for VR started in January of 2028 and Sam Larkin contracted with O&M, started in February of 2018.

Independent Living Services– Melodye May gave the independent living services report. In this fiscal year to date, ILS served 74 consumers. Suggestions from consumers have stated that they would like to see workshops all year around. In the months of January thru March, our coldest and snowiest months, teleconferences are preferred.

Outreach Events- Upcoming there are several:

LIFE Conference

Stonegates

Millcroft Senior Living

Sensitivity Training for employers:

Goodwill

The Hospitality School

We are currently collaborating with Blind Sight to facilitate a caregivers support group every fourth Thursday of the month except in the month of April.

DVI is currently collaborating with Helen Keller National Center, to spearhead a new program for the deaf/blind consumers, entitled “Confident Living”.

The Milford office will be providing low vision exams starting on April 20, 2018 on a monthly basis. Dr. Daniel Baruffi will be accepting only 5 to 6 patients per month. Also, on this date, ILS is conducting their Labeling & Organization workshop.

On May 2, 2018, Dr. Baruffi will be conducting a teleconference in awareness of healthy vision month starting at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.

BlindSight Delaware Report

Patti Addison with the Peer Support will be conducting a meeting and topic will be, “Emergency Planning, Smart 911.” The 911 operator, Mr. William (Bill) Street will be utilizing this program he created.

Blind Sight will be taking the store on the road and will be in the conference room at Milford State Service Center. This is in an effort to increase membership, fill vacancies, and have persons from downstate (currently those participating via phone). Those individuals participating by phone have one disadvantage: they

cannot vote on any of the issues that are presented. Another meeting will be conducted and this issue will be discussed.

DABA-is partnering with the Children's Beach House this spring as well as participating in the Tandem Bike Ride to the Beach.

There will be a collaboration on what to offer this summer at Blind Sight:

- to offer Equestrian day
- Swimming

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Patti Addison and was seconded by Suzanne Howell.